AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for Forward Error Correction decoding a signal which has become affected by transmission errors, the original signal being transmitted together with parity data, the method comprising:

receiving the original signal and the parity data with errors;

checking for integrity of the original signal using the parity data;

counting and locating the errors in the original signal and the parity data;

setting at least one error threshold;

comparing the number of counted errors with the set threshold; and

performing a correction of the original signal only when the number of counted errors is lower than the set threshold,

wherein different thresholds are set depending on at least one of: whether lines or columns of the original signal are checked and a number of iterative correction.

2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein, when the number of counted errors is higher than the threshold, the correction of the original signal is performed in a different operation if a recursive decoder is used.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein, the setting an error threshold comprises setting a first error threshold for checking the lines of the original signal and a second error threshold for checking the columns of the original signal.

4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the setting an error threshold comprises setting a different error threshold for any of the correction iterations.

5. (currently amended): A Forward Error Correction decoder for decoding a signal which has become affected by transmission errors, the original signal being transmitted together with parity data, the decoder comprising:

a receiver for receiving the original signal and parity data with errors;

a checker for checking for integrity of the original signal using the parity data;

a counter for counting and locating the errors; and

a comparator for comparing the number of counted errors with an error threshold,

wherein correction of the original signal is being performed only when the number of counted errors is lower than the threshold, and

wherein different error thresholds are set depending on at least one of: whether lines or columns of the original signal are checked and a number of iterative correction.

6. (currently amended): A decoder according to claim 5, wherein the error threshold comprises a first error threshold for checking the lines of the original signal and a second error threshold for checking the columns of the original signal.

7. (previously presented): A decoder according to claim 5, wherein the error threshold comprises a different error threshold for any of correction iterations.

8. (previously presented): The decoder according to claim 5, wherein the error threshold is a fixed maximum number of symbols in a codeword that the decoder is adapted to re-construe correctly.

9. (previously presented): The decoder according to claim 8, wherein, when the number of counted errors is higher than or equal to the error threshold, the decoder does not perform the correction of the original signal and wherein said correction comprises correcting faulty symbols in the original signal.

10. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the error threshold is a fixed maximum number of symbols in a codeword that the decoder is adapted to re-construe correctly.

11. (previously presented): The decoder according to claim 10, wherein, when the number of counted errors is higher than or equal to the error threshold, the decoder does not perform the correction of the original signal and wherein said correction comprises correcting faulty symbols in the original signal.

12. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein the first error threshold is different from the second error threshold.

13. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the setting of said at least one error threshold comprises varying the error thresholds depending on the number of the correction iteration.

14. (new): The decoder according to claim 6, wherein the first error threshold is different from the second error threshold.

15. (new): The decoder according to claim 5, wherein the error threshold comprises different error thresholds depending on the number of the correction iteration.